

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, September 13, 2021 5:00 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Judy LeBlanc; and Adam White.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Hennessey, State Senator.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun.

1. Non-Public Session - 5:00 p.m.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph, and (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.*

2. Public Session Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order at 6:03 p.m.

3. New Business

a. Announce Action, if Any Taken in Non-Public Session

None.

b. Erin Hennessey, State Senator

Erin Hennessey indicated that she wanted to stop by to see if she could field any questions from the Town, as well as announce some positive things that have taken place

over the past year. She provided background on the committees she takes part in. Discussion was had regarding the changes that have taken place since last year, as well as Bills and Budget items that were passed. Further discussion was had regarding projects taking place, as well as upcoming projects within the Town of Gorham.

4. Old Business/Updates

a. North Country Healthcare - Request to State for Advertising on Trestle Bridge

Denise Vallee provided a background on the request and what RSAs it violates. Discussion was had regarding the graffiti removal on the bridge. Further discussion was had regarding the bridge design and its impact on bikers and hikers.

5. Public Comment: Those in attendance will have the opportunity for public comment of two (2) minutes or less.

Senator Hennessey indicated that a lot of the Towns are experiencing an increase of homelessness and an increased expense in putting the homeless people up in hotels. She went on to state that discussion was had regarding utilizing rental assistance funds available through Tri-County CAP to offset the costs.

6. Other Business

a. Approve Minutes of August 30, 2021 (Regular & Nonpublic Meeting)

MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the Minutes of August 30, 2021, regular meeting and nonpublic meeting, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

b. Abatements, if needed

Ms. Vallee described how the abatement amount was calculated:

- **Road Hawg Barbecue - calculated to be \$12,902 with refunded interest of \$519.26. The interest due from the Town on abatement was \$1,744.44, which was applied to the owners' account.**

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the abatement for the Jennings property, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

c. Town Manager's Report

- **Gravel Pit Permit Application**

Ms. Vallee indicated that they received one application for permit of intent to excavate and are still looking at RSA 155(e) and are waiting for a call from DRA tomorrow.

- **Personnel Policy**

Selectman White indicated he still has some more changes, and he is still in the process of reviewing it. Ms. Vallee distributed the amendments to the Personnel Policy to-date and inquired whether the Board would be ready to vote on it by September 27, 2021. Discussion was had regarding taking a vote at the next meeting.

- **2021 TAP Grant Application**

Ms. Vallee indicated that this was for the Lancaster Road sidewalk infrastructure project and included a \$30,000 crosswalk. She stated that she received word that they were not funded on this Grant this year and provided the details on the final outcome. Discussion was had regarding the scoring criteria.

- **October Meeting Date Change**

Ms. Vallee inquired if the meeting could be October 13th, 2021. The Board approved the change.

- Ms. Vallee went over other Grant Applications that have been done in the past, as well as the Infrastructure Bill in Congress.
- Ms. Vallee stated they started work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and inquired whether Selectman LeBlanc could be the Board of Selectman Representative. She noted that the next meeting would take place on October 13th, 2021, via Zoom.
- Ms. Vallee made reference to the bike kiosk that went up, as well as the bike station. Discussion was had regarding the ATV kiosk.
- Ms. Vallee indicated that the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail sent the Town a \$5,000 check as a match for the Northern Forest Center Outdoor Recreation Grant.

7. Non-Public Session

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted;* (e) *Consideration or negotiation*

of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph, and (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to reenter nonpublic session at 7:13 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye

Selectman White: Aye

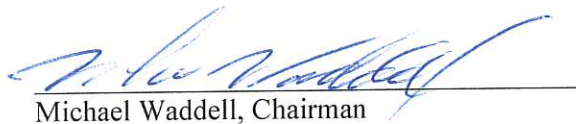
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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(603) 865-1255

Reviewed and approved on September 27, 2021:


Michael Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson


Adam White